GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:463
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
BAN ON GUTKA AND TOBACCO
JAI PRAKASH;MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government to ban `Gutka and Tobacco` in view of increasing number of cases of oral cancer caused by the use of pan masala and gutka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Requests have been received from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat for considering ban on the sale of chewing tobacco products including Gutka by Central notification under the relevant rules of the PFA Act 1954.

(c) Since a decision to ban the manufacture and sale of such products involves consideration of a number of aspects, in addition to the health aspect, an inter-ministerial consensus has to be reached before Govt. takes necessary action in this regard. For this, a request has been made to constitute a Group of Ministers to discuss this issue comprehensively. Meanwhile efforts are being made to reduce demand for all tobacco products, by inter-alia formulating a comprehensive ban on advertising of such products and also in making more visible the warning on the containers of chewing tobacco products. Some states, including Maharashtra, have already restricted the sale of chewing tobacco products in certain areas under the powers vested in them under the PFA Act, 1954.